

While I am a strong proponent of the cross interest rule and spectrum cap, I see no harm in the Commission granting this petition. The overlapping area is very small, very rural and mostly swamp. There is not enough business there to tempt any company to assert a monopoly over the market. If any thing, granting the petition may actually improve the overall competitiveness of the wireless market in the Gulf Coast region, as a whole. Alltel's acquisition of Radiofone and CenturyTel along with other markets in the region permits them to compete with major national carriers in this market.